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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT**8 JANUARY 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Cupertino – Apple Acknowledges its Devices are Affected by Meltdown, Spectre Chip Bugs**

(U) Apple Inc. published information confirming that all devices running its mobile and personal-computer operating systems are affected by two massive vulnerabilities. The original disclosures, made last week, revealed security vulnerabilities in Intel and AMD chips. Apple also said that recent updates to its Mac, iOS and tvOS software would help to mitigate against Meltdown, and that it was working on an update to its Safari web browser that would help fight off Spectre. Other software companies, like Microsoft Corp. are patching operating systems to ward off potential exploits that use the vulnerabilities as well.

SOURCE: 6 January 2018, [Latin American Herald Tribune](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Flu Cases Surge, Death Toll Rises

(U) Health officials said last week that 27 people younger than 65 have died of the flu in California since October, compared with three at the same time last year. Nationwide and in California, flu activity spiked sharply in late December and continues to grow. Experts say it's possible that this year's flu season is outpacing the last simply because it's peaking earlier. The flu season is typically worst around February, but can reach its height anytime from October to April. Though influenza had only killed three Californians at this time last year, it had taken 68 lives by the end of February, according to state data.

SOURCE: 6 January 2018, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) San Francisco – Wine Country Fires Prompt Bill to Improve Emergency Alert System

(U) North Bay lawmakers have introduced a bill to bolster the ability of emergency officials to contact residents who may be in harm's way — a topic that has been scrutinized since last year's devastating wildfires. The legislation, introduced by multiple lawmakers, including state Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, would create uniform statewide emergency notification protocols. It also would require all counties to develop and adopt guidelines for using Wireless Emergency Alerts, a federally administered system that can send Amber Alert-style messages to cell phones in a disaster area.

SOURCE: 5 January 2018, [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – US Suspends \$900 Million in Security Aid to Pakistan**

(U) Washington – The United States will suspend most security aid to Pakistan until Islamabad takes decisive steps against terrorist groups that threaten regional stability and American interests, the US State Department said last week. The State Department announced the decision, saying it reflected the Trump administration's frustration that Pakistan has not done more against the two groups that Washington says use sanctuaries in Pakistan to launch attacks in neighboring Afghanistan that have killed US, Afghan and other forces.

SOURCE: 4 January 2018, [Reuters](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) District of Columbia – Border Inspections of Electronic Devices Hits Record High**

(U) Washington – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced Friday that its border agents inspected 30,200 phones and other electronic devices in fiscal year 2017 – a nearly 60 percent spike from 2016, when 19,051 devices were searched. The agency stressed the searches are necessary to combat terrorism and other crimes, and represent just a tiny fraction - 0.007 percent of arriving international travelers - out of more than 397 million.

SOURCE: 5 January 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Afghanistan – 13 Dead, 18 Wounded in Kabul Suicide Attack**

(U) Kabul — Afghan authorities said last week that the 13 people killed in Thursday's suicide attack in Kabul were Afghan police officers. The attack took place as the police were monitoring a small demonstration. Kabul police chief Mohamad Salim Ehsas said that the officers had been monitoring a demonstration in support of a local drug trafficker, known as Husain – who had been wounded in a recent police operation – when the suicide attack occurred. In recent months, drugs, especially opium, have been on the radar of the Afghan and the US security forces that for the first time in November 2017 attacked a Taliban narcotics factory. According to the latest US data, insurgents annually make some \$200 million from the sale of drugs. In 2017, opium production increased by 87 percent, amounting to some 9,000 tons, according to a report by the Afghan government and the UN.

SOURCE: 5 January 2018, [Latin American Herald Tribune](#)

(U) Jordan – Jordan says it Foiled 'Massive' Terror Plot Linked to ISIS

(U) Amman — Jordan's state news agency says the country's intelligence service has foiled a "massive" scheme of simultaneous attacks on military installations, shopping centers and other targets by a cell linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). The Petra agency said today the cell planned to carry out the attacks last November, seeking to harm national security and create chaos. It says security forces arrested 17 people and seized weapons and other materials. The suspects are purported to have planned to finance their plot by robbing banks and stealing cars in the towns of Ruseifa and Zarqa, strongholds of domestic support for ISIS militants. Pro-Western Jordan has been a key member of the US-led military campaign against ISIS in neighboring Iraq and Syria.

SOURCE: 8 January 2018, [Bloomberg](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) District of Columbia – US President Asks for \$33 Billion for Border, Including \$18 Billion for Wall**

(U) Washington — The Trump Administration has requested \$33 billion from Congress as part of its plan for securing the border. Of that total, \$18 billion will be required for the border wall. The remaining \$15 billion would cover technology, personnel and readiness. The request titled, *Critical CBP Requirements to Improve Boarder Security*, says the CBP has identified what a 2,026-mile border wall system would entail – comprising about 864 miles of new wall and about 1,163 miles of replacement or secondary wall.

SOURCE: 6 January 2018, [CNN](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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